

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 02353 131439Z
ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
DIA WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC
USIA 1501
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SY, PLO, LE, IS
SUBJECT: SYRIAN MEDIA SUMMARY FOR APRIL 12: LEBANON, ISRAEL,
AND PLO

1. FRONT PAGE ARTICLE FROM SANA CORRESPONDENT IN KUWAIT
HIGHLIGHTED STATEMENTS FATAH EXCOMM MEMBER AND
DEPUTY PNC CHAIRMAN SALIM ZANOUN EXTOLLING CURRENT PLO-
SYRIAN RELATIONS. ZANOUN QUOTED AS AFFIRMING THAT
"SYRIA'S COHESION TO THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE STRONGER NOW
THAN IT HAS EVER BEEN IN THE PAST." HE WARNED THAT FIFTH
WAR COULD BREAK OUT AT ISRAEL'S INSTIGATION AS RESULT
COUNTRY'S "INTERNAL CRISES" AND STATED THAT RETURN
TO "THE HOLD LAND AND LIBERATED JERUSALEM ARE ARABS' ROAD
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TO UNITY." HE CRITICIZED BARTERING AWAY PALESTINIAN CAUSE
AND OPINED THAT GENEVA CONCERFERENCE UNLIKELY TO CONVENE

2. EDITORIAL ON ISRAEL'S CABINET CRISIS EXPRESSED
SKEPTICISM OVER ANNOUNCED REASON FOR RABIN'S RESIGNATION.
COLUMNIST MAHMUD KAMIL WRITING IN AL-BAATH SAW IT AS
POWER PLAY OF ONE RULING FACTION AGAINST ANOTHER BUT

DECLARED THAT NO DIFFERENCE EXISTED AMONG THESE FACTIONS ON ISSUES SUCH AS RECOGNIZING PALESTINIAN RIGHTS, ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL, AND SECURE BORDERS. PERES CALLED PUPIL OF DAYAN AND COLUMNIST EXPRESSED APPREHENSION THAT HE WOULD TRY TO KEEP DEFENSE PORTFOLIO AS DID BEN GURION. KAMIL CLAIMED THIS WOULD PERMIT MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT TO TIGHTEN ITS HOLD OVER POLITICAL APPARATUS AND THAT ITS "PRIMARY CONCERN WILL BE TO CONSOLIDATE CAPABILITIES OF ISRAELI AGGRESSION." COLUMNIST CONCLUDED THAT ISRAEL MAY BE PREPARING TO IMPOSE PEACE IT WANTS AND ARABS HAVE TO BE READY.

3. TWO EDITORIALS APPEARED ON SOUTH LEBANON. BOTH CLAIMED THAT SIRAE WAS EXPLOITING ISTUATION IN THE SOUTH TO PREVENT STABILIZATION OF LEBANON TO MAKE ATTAINMENT OF PEACE MORE DIFFICULT. CRITICISM WAS AGAIN LEVELLED AGAINST "THOSE COOPERATING WITH ISRAEL" AND ONE COLUMNIST SUGGESTED THAT "SILENCE TOWARDS ISRAEL'S DANGEROUS PROVOCATIVE PRACTICES IN SOUTH LEBANON COULD DRIVE AREA INTO DISASTROUS NEW WAR FOR WHICH ISRAEL SEEMS TO BE PREPARING." COLUMNIST OPINED THAT "ANY ESCALATION OF SITUATION IN LEBANON WILL MAKE TASK OF UN AND MAJOR POWERS IN ISSUE OF JUST PEACE MORE DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE." PELLETREAU

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